

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065217
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065217

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT JERUSALEM 722 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO TEL AVIV
10 MAR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 722

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS FROM CONSUL GENERAL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: SETTLEMENTS

REF: JERUSALEM 718

1. IN REFERENCED MESSAGE, WE ARE SUMMARIZING BEGIN
GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON THE WEST BANK TO DATE.
IN REVIEWING OUR RECORD, WE ARE STRUCK BY THE HECTIC PACE
OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY OF THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT. SINCE
BEGIN TOOK OFFICE IN JUNE, 1977, 14 NEW SETTLEMENTS HAVE
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BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE WEST BANK, TWO NEW ONES HAVE
BEEN SET UP IN NO-MAN'S LAND, AND THREE PREVIOUSLY
EXISTING ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN LEGITIMIZED.
THIS, WE STRESS, IS ONLY FOR THE WEST BANK AREA AND
DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI, GAZA
OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, TO SAY NOTHING OF EAST JERUSALEM.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THE RANGE OF DIFFICULT ISSUES WHICH ARE ON THE AGENDA OF THE BEGIN VISIT. CONCERNING SETTLEMENTS, HOWEVER, OUR CONCLUSION HERE IS THAT UNLESS BEGIN CAN SOMEHOW BE BROUGHT TO HALT SETTLEMENTS, AT LEAST DURING NEGOTIATIONS, AN ALREADY EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT ISSUE WILL BE MADE PROGRESSIVELY WORSE.

3. IN ADDITION TO SHEER NUMBERS, LIKUD GOVERNMENT HAS SITED SETTLEMENTS IN RELATIVELY DENSELY POPULATED ARAB AREAS RATHER THAN IN SPARSELY POPULATED JORDAN VALLEY AS WAS CASE OF UNDER LABOR ALIGNMENT.
NEWLIN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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